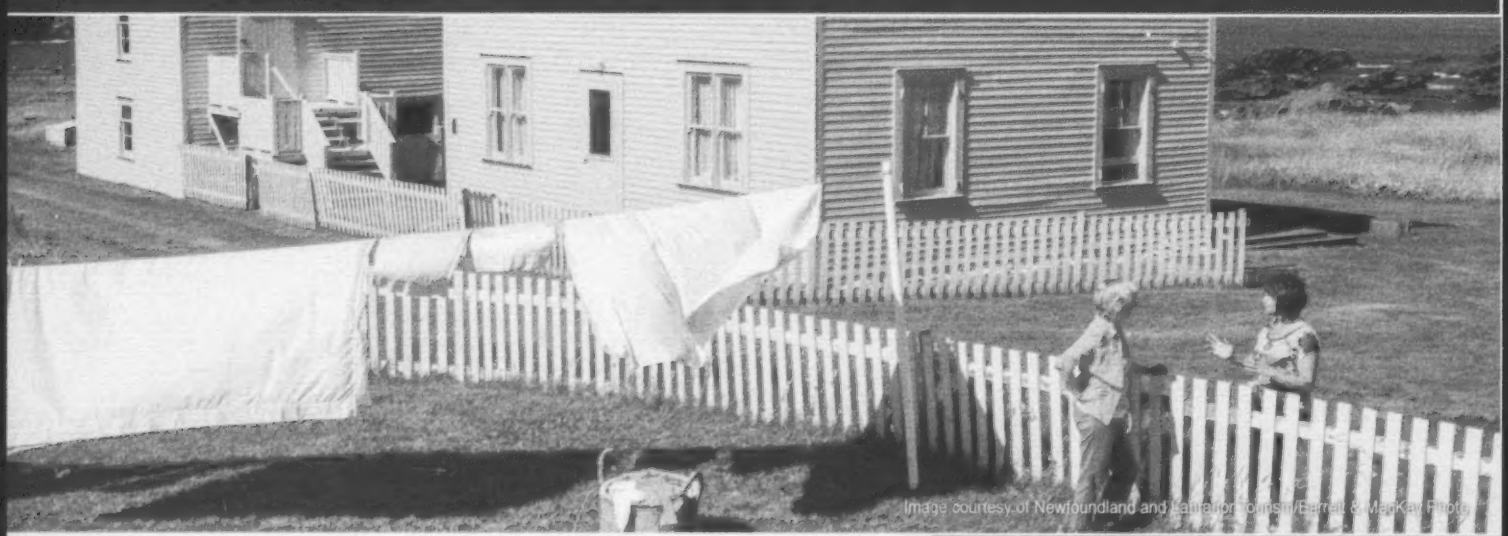
2013-14

Office of Public Engagement
Executive Council



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Annual Report

Newfoundland
Labrador

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement and in accordance with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to accountability, I am pleased to submit the Office of Public Engagement's 2013-14 Annual Report.

The annual report describes the progress of the Office of Public Engagement during the last year and its accomplishments within key areas of its mandate to advance open government, business and labour engagement, rural sustainability, youth engagement, and the community sector in the province.

In 2013-14, the Office of Public Engagement has supported the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, introduced the *Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection Act*, and launched the Open Government Initiative as a new way of engaging people in government's decision-making process.

This year, through a range of activities, we are encouraging Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to share their ideas and insights and help the Provincial Government develop an Open Government Action Plan which will shape the future of the province.

The Office of Public Engagement will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to develop programs and services to help meet their collective needs so they can best function, grow, and continue to contribute to the development of our communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all staff for their efforts and commitment in helping fulfill the Office's many accomplishments this past fiscal year. As Minister, I look forward to building upon these efforts in 2014-15.

As the Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement, I am accountable for the accomplishments reported in this document. This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's *Transparency and Accountability Act* provisions.

Sincerely,

Sandy Collins, MHA
Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement

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1. Introduction

Established in October 2012, the Office of Public Engagement (OPE) brought together the Rural Secretariat, the Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat, the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office (ATIPPO), the Strategic Partnership, the Office of Youth Engagement, and related programs.

The work of the OPE reflects the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's broad commitment to open government. The OPE will help government to support a vibrant and prosperous province where citizens, stakeholders, community agencies and academic institutions are supported and encouraged to work together with government, to benefit the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In support of its mandate, the OPE undertakes activities and initiatives related to public engagement, collaboration, research and evaluation, access to data, the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection Act*. The OPE also supports the Provincial Council and Regional Councils of the Rural Secretariat.

Additionally, the OPE works to advance the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to open government. Through the Open Government Initiative, Government has committed to listening to and involving citizens and stakeholders in new and innovative ways, as well as changing the way it does business. This includes a commitment to improve access to information and data; provide meaningful opportunities for dialogue with the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador; and to bring government, partners, organizations and communities together through collaborative efforts. For more information on the Open Government Initiative and the four pillars or to "have your say" please visit the website (http://open.gov.nl.ca).

The work of the OPE is delivered with a staff complement of 34 positions; 21 female, 10 male and three vacancies.

Twenty-four positions are located in St. John's and the remaining ten positions are located in Carbonear, Placentia, Bonavista, Burin, New-Wes-Valley, Springdale, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Roddickton and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Most of these offices are co-located with the Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development or the College of the North Atlantic.

To accomplish its mandate the OPE spent almost $7.1M in 2013-14. A financial summary is provided in section 9 of this report.

This report highlights the key accomplishments of the OPE in 2013-14. Given the OPE was established in late 2012, an Activity Plan was not required to be tabled in 2013 and therefore, this document does not report on specific goals, objectives, measures or indicators. The OPE has commenced work on a new Activity Plan for 2014-17.

2. Mandate

The Office of Public Engagement is mandated to:

- create, support and deliver meaningful dialogue and public engagement opportunities that build capacity consistent with leading practices in this field in order to better connect the people of the province to their government;
- conduct and support research and evaluation activities to inform government policy and decision-making processes;
- work with internal and external partners to identify, build and support effective collaborative processes to address public policy issues and issues of common interest to special interest groups, community, business, labour and government sectors;
- administer and coordinate the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and promoting new and innovative government-wide proactive disclosure of information and data policies and practices that are informed by the citizens and stakeholders of the province; and
- administer the *Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection Act*, including regulations approved under the Act.

3. Lines of Business

The OPE operates within the following lines of business:

Dialogue: The OPE demonstrates to the public and the public service best practices in public engagement through the development and implementation of effective engagement and dialogue that include youth, the community sector, business, labour and academic sectors as well as the Provincial Council and the Regional Councils. Additionally, in keeping with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to open government, the OPE is available to support government entities, advisory councils, regional groups, community organizations and stakeholders across all sectors in the design and delivery of their own public engagement initiatives.

Collaboration Support: The OPE recognizes that all forms of collaboration, including partnerships, are an important form of high level engagement. The OPE works to support and participates in various existing collaborative efforts such as those involving the business and labour sectors, and citizen-based voluntary Provincial and Regional Councils of the

Rural Secretariat. The OPE also helps convene and provide partnership brokering support (both internally and externally) to new collaborative efforts such as networks or alliances.

Research and Evaluation: The OPE supports and partners with government entities, academic institutions, and other partners and stakeholders on collaborative research efforts that are integral to understanding issues of importance to regions and the province. The OPE supports, convenes and partners in relevant evaluation efforts with an emphasis on approaches that directly involve multiple stakeholders. The OPE is also responsible for the implementation of the Rural Lens, an analytical tool used by government departments to assess the rural implications of proposed policies and decisions.

Access to Information and Data and Protection of Privacy: The OPE is responsible for the overall administration and coordination of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as well as the proactive disclosure of information and data by departments. This includes administering the Act by ensuring statutory requirements such as annual reports and legislative reviews are completed; collecting and maintaining statistics on access to information requests; providing guidance, assistance, training and advice on the application and interpretation of the Act to public bodies; assisting public bodies with the implementation of the appropriate privacy breach protocol where necessary; and providing leadership with regards to the proactive disclosure of information and data, including policy development and liaising with departments to facilitate the online posting of information as well as maintenance of the Open Information webpage.

4. VALUES

The core values of the Office of Public Engagement are as follows:

Innovation
We will be proactive in developing innovative solutions that address existing and future issues and challenges being faced by those we serve. We do this by cultivating a learning culture in which all ideas are thoroughly considered.

Service Excellence
We strive for excellence and are committed to providing the highest quality of service delivery in all aspects of our work. We aim to provide consistent high-quality and relevant guidance and advice to those we serve.

Respect and Inclusion
We embrace the diversity that exists among us. We demonstrate this by listening to and considering the ideas and opinions of varied stakeholders, the public and co-workers. We are committed to working co-operatively, respecting differing views and striving to make our work environments safe and engaging for everyone.

Integrity and Transparency
We are open and honest in all our work and maintain the highest integrity and ethical standards at all times.

Collaboration
We believe effective collaboration with our partners and stakeholders is essential to the development of good public policy.

Leadership
We build capacity, encourage advancement and cultivate effective leaders by providing quality opportunities for staff to learn, develop and inspire others including stakeholders, the public and co-workers.

5. Primary Clients

The Office of Public Engagement has two primary client groups:
Clients external to the Provincial Government and **clients within the Provincial Government**.

- The OPE interacts with the general public through targeted engagement activities on a host of topics.
- The OPE interacts with citizens and stakeholder groups, including Regional Councils, the Provincial Council, regional organizations, community sector organizations, business groups, labour organizations, youth serving agencies and academic institutions on matters related to the OPE mandate.
- The OPE supports Provincial Government entities to engage the public and stakeholder groups in policy and decision-making matters and with matters related to access to information, privacy and the proactive disclosure of information and data.
- The OPE brokers the development of collaborative relationships between and among key stakeholder groups and government departments and agencies.
- The OPE works in partnership with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Citizens' Representative and the Labour Relations Board to administer the *Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection Act*.

6. Vision

The vision of the Office of Public Engagement is excellence in public engagement and open government.

Excellence in public engagement will foster a vibrant and prosperous province where citizens, varied stakeholder groups, community agencies and academic institutions are supported and encouraged to work together and with government, to benefit the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Excellence in open government will lead to informed and engaged citizens, increased opportunities for the public to participate in government policy and decision making in a meaningful way and enhanced collaboration among government, stakeholders and citizens.

7. Highlights and Accomplishments

The following Report summarizes the work of the Office of Public Engagement for the 2013-14 reporting period. The accomplishments reported below were guided by the mandate and vision of the Office.

Open Government Initiative Launched

On March 20, 2014, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the Open Government Initiative (OGI). The OGI is a government-wide effort, led by the OPE, aiming to: improve access to government information and data; enhance government's overall engagement of citizens and stakeholders; and strengthen collaboration between and among all sectors including government.

A key objective of the OGI is to create Newfoundland and Labrador's first Open Government Action Plan. This Action Plan will contain concrete commitments based on the key issues and priorities identified by the public. We will also develop a process to evaluate progress of Action Plan items, and to be accountable. A public engagement plan is being created to gather information from citizens and stakeholders from across the province. The feedback collected from engagement sessions will directly inform the development of the action plan which will include accountability measures. For additional information on the Open Government Initiative please visit the website (http://open.gov.nl.ca).

As part of the OGI, four linked webpages were launched in March 2014. The Open Information and Open Data webpages provide easy access to a range of records and a sampling of datasets currently held within government. Over the last year the OPE has worked with the NL Statistics Agency to identify what data can be proactively disclosed to

the public. These resources can be found at http://opendata.gov.nl.ca/. Additionally, the OPE has worked with government departments to continue to identify information that can be proactively disclosed. During the 2013-14 fiscal year, over 40 proactive disclosures were made by government departments. They can be found on the Open Information webpage at http://www.open.gov.nl.ca/information/default.html. The Office continues to ask citizens and stakeholders for feedback and suggestions as to how we can increase the quantity and quality of information and data available.

Dialogue and Collaboration webpages have also been launched as part of the OGI. The Dialogue webpage (http://www.open.gov.nl.ca/dialogue/default.html) contains information on how citizens can contribute to the OGI, as well as input and feedback received to date about open government and the OGI. The Collaboration webpage (http://www.open.gov.nl.ca/collaboration/default.html) contains information on collaborative work of the OPE and details of new initiatives being undertaken.

Online Posting of Government Department Responses to General Access Requests

In April 2013, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador posted government department responses to general access requests online. Posting requests online is part of Government's continued commitment to openness and transparency and enhances public awareness and understanding of the types of information government holds. Requests from January 2013 to present can be found on the following website: http://www.atipp.gov.nl.ca/info/completed/index.html.

Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Training and Support

In collaboration with the Centre for Learning and Development, the OPE has created a new training module which is available to all public bodies. This module provides a general overview of the *ATIPP Act*, as well as employees' roles and responsibilities in terms of the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. In order to ensure that public bodies protect the personal information they have, it is essential that all employees are aware of the importance of protecting personal information and their obligations under the Act to ensuring that personal information collected is disclosed appropriately and in accordance with this legislation.

Additionally, part of the OPE's mandate is to provide guidance and assistance to public bodies that are subject to the Act. One of the ways that the OPE does this is through access and privacy training with public bodies. The OPE provides ATIPP Coordinator training, general access and privacy training, employee onboarding, and support for communities of practice.

Privacy Reviews and Materials

In an effort to ensure that government departments are complying with the *ATIPP Act* and protecting the personal information in their custody or control, the OPE commenced an

internal privacy review of departments. This review focuses on how departments are collecting, using, disclosing, storing and destroying personal information. During this process, the OPE will work with departments to support compliance with the legislation.

As part of its commitment to ensure personal information is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the *ATIPP Act*, the OPE has also updated and created new privacy materials for individuals and employees. Updated materials include a privacy poster, a handout and guidelines for employees, a handout for individuals outlining steps they can take to protect their personal information, as well as what to do if they think their personal information has been breached. These materials can be found on the following website: http://www.atipp.gov.nl.ca/info/privacybreach.html.

Access to Information Policy and Procedures Manual

In 2013, the OPE updated its Access to Information Policy and Procedures Manual. The updated manual includes references to commissioner reports and court cases from Newfoundland and Labrador as well as from other Canadian jurisdictions, providing public bodies with comprehensive and informative guidelines for processing access to information requests. The manual can be found on the following website: http://www.atipp.gov.nl.ca/info/index.html.

Public Engagement Guide

A Public Engagement Guide was developed by the OPE to help other government departments implement successful public engagement processes. The manual outlines guiding principles that will shape public participation efforts undertaken by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. It outlines how public engagement can be used, when it should be used and who it can typically involve. It seeks to provide a starting point for those considering engaging the public to quickly acquire the basic knowledge required to design, conduct, and evaluate engagement activities. This manual helps clarify key terms, expectations, and what to do with information obtained during the process. Ultimately, the guide will help the user determine the extent of their need to involve the public, what form of public engagement is appropriate for their purpose and how to evaluate the effectiveness of an engagement process. The manual is available online at: http://www.ope.gov.nl.ca/pdf/OPE_PEGuide.pdf.

URock 2013

The 2013 URock Awards were held at The Rooms on May 25, 2013. Eight awards were presented to youth and youth-based organizations for their outstanding volunteer contributions. The 2013 recipients were Beyond the Hurt of Gander, Catherine Price of Fortune, Donovan Taplin of Bell Island, Enactus from Memorial University of Newfoundland, John Norman of Bonavista, Kandice Power of Paradise, Nicole Furey of Avondale, and Sabrina Andrews of Grand Falls-Windsor. The show was hosted by local comedian Matt

Wright and featured performances by Kellie Loder, City on the Coast, Two Oceans and RocketRocketShip. Recipients of the award each received a custom designed electric guitar. For more information about the URock Volunteer Awards, please visit the website (www.urockvolunteerawards.ca).

Community Summit

The 2014 Community Summit was the third provincial Community Summit. It used innovative technology to engage citizens in a number of locations around the province, in real time, with the goal of capturing input on a variety of topics.

The Summit linked four regional sites via Skype to create a "virtual rooms" dialogue event. Turning Point, audience response keypad polling technology, was used to capture audience views on a number of topics across all sites. Participants met on-site in St. John's, Grand Falls-Windsor, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Corner Brook and all locations were connected to create one engagement event. This Summit not only boosted attendance, but unlike other years when the Summit was hosted in one location with participants traveling from all regions of the province, it allowed participants to meet *within* their own regions and take part in the province-wide dialogue.

The broad concept behind this Summit was to provide a networking and regional-based dialogue opportunity for the community sector. Volunteers and community sector staff are best positioned to speak to their current and future needs. They are well placed to educate and inform decision-makers about the challenges and needs of the sector. The Summit was an opportunity for individuals from all across the province to share, learn and inform policies in a new and innovative way. All associated PowerPoint presentations and discussion comment summaries are available at www.ope.gov.nl.ca.

Social Enterprise

In March 2014, the OPE convened a meeting with representatives from key government departments to explore the social enterprise model and map next steps to support social enterprise in NL. Departmental representation included Innovation, Business and Rural Development; Advanced Education and Skills; Child, Youth and Family Services; Health and Community Services; Government Purchasing Agency; Tourism, Culture and Recreation; Service NL; and Executive Council – Policy Innovation and Accountability Office. In late March, officials from the OPE met with key community stakeholders to explore priority initiatives and future directions for social enterprise development in Newfoundland and Labrador. The OPE intends to engage with departmental and community stakeholders encouraging ongoing dialogue and opportunity identification. All stakeholders throughout the province will be invited to participate in a range of learning and dialogue activities which will inform the development of a social enterprise strategy.

Volunteer Week

Volunteer Week was commemorated province wide April 18-24, 2013. Under the theme of "Make Some Noise!" community organizations were challenged by the OPE to celebrate their varied contributions to community through a series of events and community activities.

As the lead for Volunteer Week, the OPE spearheaded a number of initiatives including a coffee break with the Witless Bay Volunteer Fire Department, the launch of the web-based Youth Volunteer Info Kit and working in partnership with the Community Sector Council to provide grants to support local volunteer recognition events. The OPE also participated in a range of community events and media interviews to commemorate Volunteer Week, including the Community Sector Council's annual volunteer recognition ceremony and the Lieutenant Governor's Volunteer Week reception at Government House.

Community-University Expo 2013: Engaging Shared Worlds

CU Expo 2013 was co-hosted by the City of Corner Brook and the Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland, with support from the OPE. The Expo was held in Corner Brook from June 12-15, 2013 and brought together over 400 students, community leaders, researchers, educators, funders, policy makers and community-builders from around the world.

CU Expo is a Canadian-led international conference designed to showcase the best practices in community-university partnerships worldwide and to create opportunities for innovative and successful collaboration which can strengthen our communities. The conference has been held every 2 years over the past decade in various provinces, including Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. CU Expo is organized jointly by communities, universities/colleges, government, and non-profit organizations.

Over the four days of the conference, participants attended a variety of interactive sessions: from workshops to arts activities, deliberative dialogue to presentations, participatory communications, mobile tours, service learning and more. All sessions were focused around one of the three themes of the conference: engaging transformation; engaging knowledge: and engaging voices.

Staff of the OPE participated on all of the organizing committees leading up to the conference, provided direct support during the event, presented community-based research projects, led sessions and/or hosted community events and facilitated several key sessions. Additionally, the OPE sponsored a youth-run participatory community radio initiative that was operational before and throughout the event. For more information on CU Expo 2013: Engaging Shared Worlds, please visit the website at:
http://www.cuexpo2013.ca/Pages/default.aspx.

Engagement Activities

In the 2013-14 fiscal year, the OPE was involved in over 45 unique public engagement projects, 37 of which were completed between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. Over 3400 people from across Newfoundland and Labrador participated in 112 in-person engagement sessions. The role of the OPE with such projects varied from advising clients seeking to enhance their own engagement efforts to OPE engaging particular sectors by designing and delivering sessions for youth and the voluntary and community sector. For some projects, the OPE designed, delivered and facilitated significant public engagement activities on behalf of other GNL departments such as the Provincial Population Growth Strategy or Municipal and Intergovernmental Affair's Fiscal Framework Review. It also supported various community sector agencies with their engagement efforts such as Literacy NL and the Provincial Student Leadership Conference. The OPE's work in this area is grounded in its commitment to advancing the practice of effective public engagement and consultative efforts both within the Government of Newfoundland Labrador and among the broader community sector.

Collaborative Community-Based Research

The OPE undertook or supported numerous research projects during 2013-14. These projects supported OPE partners, including nine Regional Councils and one Provincial Council, to develop and provide advice to the government on issues affecting the sustainability of regions of the province.

Several research projects explored ways to improve models of service delivery in the province. For instance, on the west coast of the Island, the Corner Brook - Rocky Harbour and Stephenville - Port aux Basques Regional Councils collaborated to explore the benefits of adopting a nurse practitioner model to improve the accessibility to health care services for residents. Other research initiatives explored improving regional sustainability within the province. For example, in the Clarenville-Bonavista region, research was conducted to explore issues that have implications for sustainability, such as regional governance.

Two projects were completed through the Strategic Partnership Student Research Fund. One involved conducting a literature review of labour market issues in the rural tourism sector to better understand the sector and identify best practices for use in rural areas of the province. The second involved an environmental scan of supports to local food production that included a review of socio-economic factors inhibiting local food production and a review of technologies and innovations that would help maintain environmentally and economically sustainable food production in the province.

Regional Engagement Initiatives

In addition to supporting the work of nine Regional Councils and a Provincial Council, regional staff also support and lead numerous projects and initiatives in their respective

regions. Many of these have been referenced in this section (e.g., community radio events, volunteer week activities, community-based research projects, youth forums). Regional staff assist/support community and/or academic partners in their engagement efforts and provide partnership brokering support to new collaborative efforts and initiatives.

Community Radio

The Gathering is a three day annual celebration of "food, fire and music" that draws people from Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond to experience the traditional culture and isolated beauty of Burlington, Middle Arm and Smith's Harbour. The Steering Committee for *The Gathering* believed that harnessing the power of participatory communications (community FM radio and webcasting) would not only enhance *The Gathering* but also collaboration that is critical to the success of regional tourism efforts. The Steering Committee, in partnership with the participating towns, various youth and community organizations, Ryakuga Grassroots Communications Inc. and the OPE hosted a participatory communications event (community radio broadcasting and internet webcasting) on August 23 – 25, 2013.

The OPE's Planner located in the Grand Falls-Windsor – Baie Verte – Harbour Breton region was a key broker and facilitator in the Gathering Radio, brought Ryakuga representatives to the community, acted as liaison between the region, *The Gathering* and Ryakuga, and assisted the overall organizing committee with preparation activities including orientation and training of youth. The Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement spoke at the event and was interviewed by a youth reporter.

The Grand Falls – Windsor – Baie Verte – Harbour Breton Regional Council volunteered with the participatory communications and tourism engagement aspects of the event. They acted as roving reporters for the *Gathering Radio,* collecting views from residents and visiting tourists. Regional Council members, along with 23 others, participated in the OPE's dialogue *Conversation at the Green House* event where they discussed the tourism potential of The Gathering and how it can be used to enhance the Baie Verte Peninsula as a tourist destination.

CU Expo 2013 featured *All the Voices*, a participatory, grassroots community media initiative developed in partnership with Bay of Islands Radio the campus-community radio station operating out of the Grenfell Campus. The goal of the initiative was to capture the voices of everyone attending CU Expo 2013. *All the Voices* included live FM and online radio broadcasts during the conference and engaged community members and CU Expo participants through social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Many participants and local residents tuned into the broadcast, and people from around the world listened online.

The community media space for this project was located centrally in the high-profile lobby of the Pepsi Studio. The event was considered a celebration of the practice of community-based participatory communications in Newfoundland and Labrador. Throughout the conference, many CU Expo participants visited the media centre, where they spoke on air about themselves and their projects and interviewed one another.

The Southern Shore Sounds was a community radio initiative held in April/May 2013 and hosted by Baltimore School in Ferryland with support from the OPE. This youth-focused participatory communications event was a regional collaboration of local municipalities, heritage groups and youth groups including the local Community Youth Network (CYN). During the event, the OPE worked with staff and students to facilitate a career focused engagement session which involved all students from grades 7-12. This event included a Getting the Message Out presentation in addition to a dialogue session on volunteering and its relationship to career development.

With the assistance of Ryakuga Grassroots Communications Inc., this celebratory learning event presented students with the opportunity to explore technologies, such as FM radio and the internet, to communicate globally. By utilizing an experiential learning approach, students created and delivered programming, researched and conducted interviews and managed the overall event scheduling.

Business and Labour Engagement

Since 2002, the Strategic Partnership (SP) has provided a forum for open dialogue among government, labour and business. The partners in the SP are the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (GNL), the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL) and the Newfoundland and Labrador Business Coalition (NLBC).

During 2013-14, the SP's Innovation and Labour Market Committees continued to meet to discuss issues and build consensus on public policy recommendations amongst the partners.

In addition to this ongoing work, the OPE collaborated with its business and labour partners to complete a participatory assessment of the SP. This involved individual, sector and collective reflection and analysis from past and present members and included an electronic survey, in-person and telephone interviews and a jurisdictional scan.

Overall, the assessment concluded that it is important for government, business and labour to build collaborative relationships. Going forward, the research and the results from the assessment will be used to identify a series of recommendations for advancing business-labour-government partnerships across the province and in the development of any future models for cross-sector collaboration.

Developed a new Civic Engagement Stream for the Getting the Message Out program

For over 20 years, Getting the Message Out (GMO) program staff have visited Career Development and Entrepreneurship classes across the province, telling success stories of people in Newfoundland and Labrador and inspiring high school students to create a future for themselves here at home. Over the years, the program has undergone several changes, but the overall messages and methods have been consistent. Each year GMO representatives meet over 3000 students across the province and tell them about some of the great things that are happening here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In an effort to engage even more young people in their communities and province, a new civic engagement and active citizenship GMO stream has been developed and added to the existing GMO program. This program is aligned with curriculum outcomes and is a valuable resource for social studies teachers across the province.

The new GMO program stream addresses a need to educate young people in our province about civic engagement and what it means to be an active citizen in our schools, our communities, province and world. The new presentation focuses on defining civic engagement and active citizenship and profiles young people from across Newfoundland and Labrador who are active citizens at multiple levels – locally, provincially, nationally and/or internationally.

Grants to Youth Organizations

Each year, Grants to Youth Organizations (GTYO) supports a broad range of youth-based initiatives, youth centres and/or youth leadership entities to develop and deliver activities related to self-reliance, leadership and citizen development. These grants:

- Address an identified need within the community or region;
- Effectively engage youth and/or youth-serving agencies; and
- Enable the sponsoring agency to develop stronger collaborative relationships within the community and with regional partners.

There were over 30 grants approved in 2013-14 with a total value of about $650,000.

Community Youth Networks

The OPE continues to support 34 Community Youth Networks (CYNs) in Newfoundland and Labrador. This past year's highlights include a special partnership with the Department of Advanced Education and Skills who approved $200,000 in funding to 13 CYNs to provide for an initiative entitled 'Meeting Future Labour Demands through Youth Engagement'. This initiative will provide one time funding to assist CYNs to conduct meaningful activities for youth, as well as build internal capacity with respect to entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work-readiness programming. CYNs also availed of 35 Summer Student Work and Service Program (SWASP) placements this year and 55 Year Round SWASP placements.

Other government departments as well as various community partners continue to provide support to CYNs.

A CYN Accountability Framework is being developed with the Office's Research, Evaluation and Policy Division – this Framework will be a new reporting tool for CYNs as well as an instrument to measure impacts and success.

CYNs this past year have participated in various OPE activities such as youth forums, the 2014 Community Summit and discussions focused on Bill 6 regarding youth representatives being added to municipal councils. CYNs continue to highlight or support special initiatives in their regions including Volunteer Week activities, International Youth Day events, and anti-bully, violence prevention and mental health campaigns.

Youth Forums

From May to September 2013, twenty-four OPE-led Youth Engagement Forums were held in various locations across Newfoundland and Labrador. These forums were designed and implemented by an OPE planning team consisting of Regional Planners and provincial office staff. The planning team worked in collaboration with local youth organizations such as CYNs, Boys and Girls Clubs, and high schools.

These forums or dialogue sessions focused on three key themes: careers, civic engagement/community involvement and youth engagement. The sessions were designed to be flexible to allow for local adaptation as appropriate (i.e., to account for age, venue, size of the group, time available, etc.). The purpose of the forums was to engage with school-age youth throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and seek their ideas and opinions on various topics. The information and data gathered was used to inform the work of the OPE, in particular the Youth Engagement team. Key insights were shared with other departments across the Provincial Government interested in the perspectives of youth on issues and topics related to their mandates.

In total, 530 youth from all nine Rural Secretariat regions were engaged in the forums (Appendix A). The number of participants per forum varied from 6 to 87, with an average of 23 youth participating per session. The majority of youth who participated (45%) attended high school, one third attended junior high school, and a small portion (roughly 10%) were either not in the education system or were in post-secondary institutions.

Provincial Student Leadership Conference

Analysis of the information gathered at the Youth Engagement Forums pointed to a need to probe further on some of the findings. In particular, youth said they were interested in receiving more information about possible future careers and in being more engaged in decisions that affect their communities and province. To follow up on these themes, the OPE

team designed a special session focused on career information and ways to engage youth in decisions related to their communities and the province for delivery at the Provincial Student Leadership Conference (PSLC) in Gander on October 15-16, 2013. The PSLC is one of the largest gatherings of the school-aged youth in the province and in 2013 it brought together approximately 350 junior high and high school students from all regions in the province. On the first day of the Conference three identical sessions were arranged to collect input from as many participants as possible. Each session included a combination of discussion and keypad polling questions based on the findings from the Youth Engagement Forums. On the second day of the Conference, the OPE held a large plenary session with nearly 400 participants including students and teachers. During this plenary the OPE staff reported back to the conference's participants on the key themes emerging and polled them for additional feedback. A 'What We Heard' document was prepared and is available online at: http://www.ope.gov.nl.ca/pdf/YouthEngagementForums-WhatWeHeard.pdf.

8. Shared Commitments

The Office of Public Engagement understands that collaboration is essential for the enhancement of public engagement efforts in the province. Throughout 2013-14, the Office worked with various government departments, agencies and community organizations to advance common goals. The following table highlights a number of the shared projects and activities completed by the Office of Public Engagement.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT/ ORGANIZATION	ISSUE/PROJECT
Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)	OPE provided advice and guidance to assist CYFS's engagement activities relating to the *Child Care Services Act*, family resource centres and the Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS) Youth Corrections Annual General Meeting.
Fisheries and Aquaculture	OPE partnered to design, deliver and implement four dialogue sessions in the Fall of 2013. The sessions focused on the aquaculture industry in NL, were held in Grand Falls-Windsor and St. John's. Representatives from the mussel industry, salmonid industry, community organizations and research institutions attended.
Health and Community Services	OPE partnered to design, deliver and implement seven in-person engagement sessions in the Fall of 2013. Sessions took place across the province, focused on the Road Ambulance Review and targeted various ambulance

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT/ ORGANIZATION	ISSUE/PROJECT
	stakeholders. Additional sessions were held with the Regional Councils.
The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) – NL Regional Group, the Policy Innovation and Accountability Office (PIAO) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)	The IPAC Spring Symposium was held in St. John's on March 14, 2014 and brought together 117 provincial, federal and municipal policy professionals. The OPE assisted the PIAO and IPAC with the design of interactive sessions and showcased the use of innovative public engagement practices in public policy.
Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs	OPE partnered to design, deliver and implement an extensive stakeholder engagement initiative across the province as a part of the Fiscal Framework Review. Engagement sessions focused on the current provincial-municipal fiscal framework and looked at whether local governments are in a position to effectively provide and fund services to meet the needs of citizens now and into the future. Fifteen sessions were held across the province throughout February and March 2014. Stakeholders included municipalities, local service districts, Professional Municipal Administrators and Regional Councils.
Policy Innovation and Accountability Office (PIAO)	OPE supported the PIAO in Policy Model Cafes related to policy development in government. The OPE hosted tabled discussions and information sessions at the PIAO's five Policy Model Cafes.
Provincial Population Growth Strategy	OPE partnered to design, deliver and implement 14 engagement sessions in the Fall of 2013. Citizens and stakeholders from across the province were engaged on challenges and opportunities related to population growth in the province. Sessions took place in St. John's (4), Carbonear, Clarenville, Marystown, Gander, Grand Falls, Corner Brook, Stephenville, St. Anthony, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador City.
City of St. John's	OPE collaborated to design, deliver and implement a dialogue session entitled, *Arts in the City 3*. The session was designed to gather input from the community (arts, business and Newfoundland Film Producers) and focused on how to support creativity and increase connections between artists, business and the community at large.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT/ ORGANIZATION	ISSUE/PROJECT
Grenfell Campus, Memorial University	OPE worked collaboratively with Grenfell Campus on a number of initiatives in 2013-14 including: CU Expo 2013; Sustainable Tourism in a Green Economy Conference; Opportunities Expo; and Grenfell Strategic Planning sessions.
The Harris Centre, Memorial University	OPE played a collaborative role in the Harris Centre led study *Advancing Innovation in Newfoundland and Labrador.* The study team reviewed current literature on innovation and held sessions throughout the province to gauge innovation activity at the regional level. Sessions were held at the Point Amour Lighthouse in Southern Labrador, Plum Point on the Northern Peninsula, Corner Brook, and Centerville as well as St. John's. The OPE participated in background research projects and provided facilitation and engagement support to the research team.
Innu Nation/Innu School Board	OPE provided design support, on-site delivery assistance and capacity-building/skills transfer to engage a broad range of stakeholders in discussions on the results of recent consultations about education (i.e., how to strengthen relationships among the schools and community, and the development of school success plans). Sessions were held in January 2014 in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish.
Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	OPE partnered with ICZM, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Department of Fisheries and Oceans to design, deliver and implement four dialogue sessions on the Northern Peninsula in October 2013. Sessions focused on the importance of integrated coastal zone management in the region and explored related opportunities and challenges.
Literacy NL	OPE partnered to design, deliver and implement dialogue sessions focused on literacy and essential skills. Sessions were held in St. John's, Gander, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Corner Brook in the fall of 2013.

9. Financial Summary

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are un-audited and based on public information provided in the Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the Year End 31 March 2014. Audited financial statements are a requirement at the government level and are made public through the Public Accounts process; however the Office of Public Engagement is not required to provide a separate audited financial statement.

RURAL SECRETARIAT	Department Original Budget 2013-14	Amended 2013-14	Actual 2013-14
Salaries	1,253,300	1,274,800	1,256,033
Employee Benefits	5,800	5,800	1,337
Travel & Communication	215,600	215,600	212,109
Supplies	31,800	31,800	23,131
Professional Services	107,500	100,000	70,125
Purchased Services	81,800	81,800	68,593
Property, Furnishings & Equipment	6,000	13,500	13,401
Total Expenditure	1,702,300	1,723,300	1,644,730

VOLUNTARY NON-PROFIT SECRETARIAT	Department Original Budget 2013-14	Amended 2013-14	Actual 2013-14
Salaries	473,400	461,900	457,086
Employee Benefits	3,300	3,300	1,107
Travel & Communication	61,800	39,500	18,133
Supplies	9,600	14,600	9,946
Professional Services	5,000	29,500	29,469
Purchased Services	75,600	68,400	62,101
Property, Furnishings & Equipment	2,700	2,700	2,498
Grants	276,200	276,200	270,700
Total Expenditure	907,600	896,100	851,040

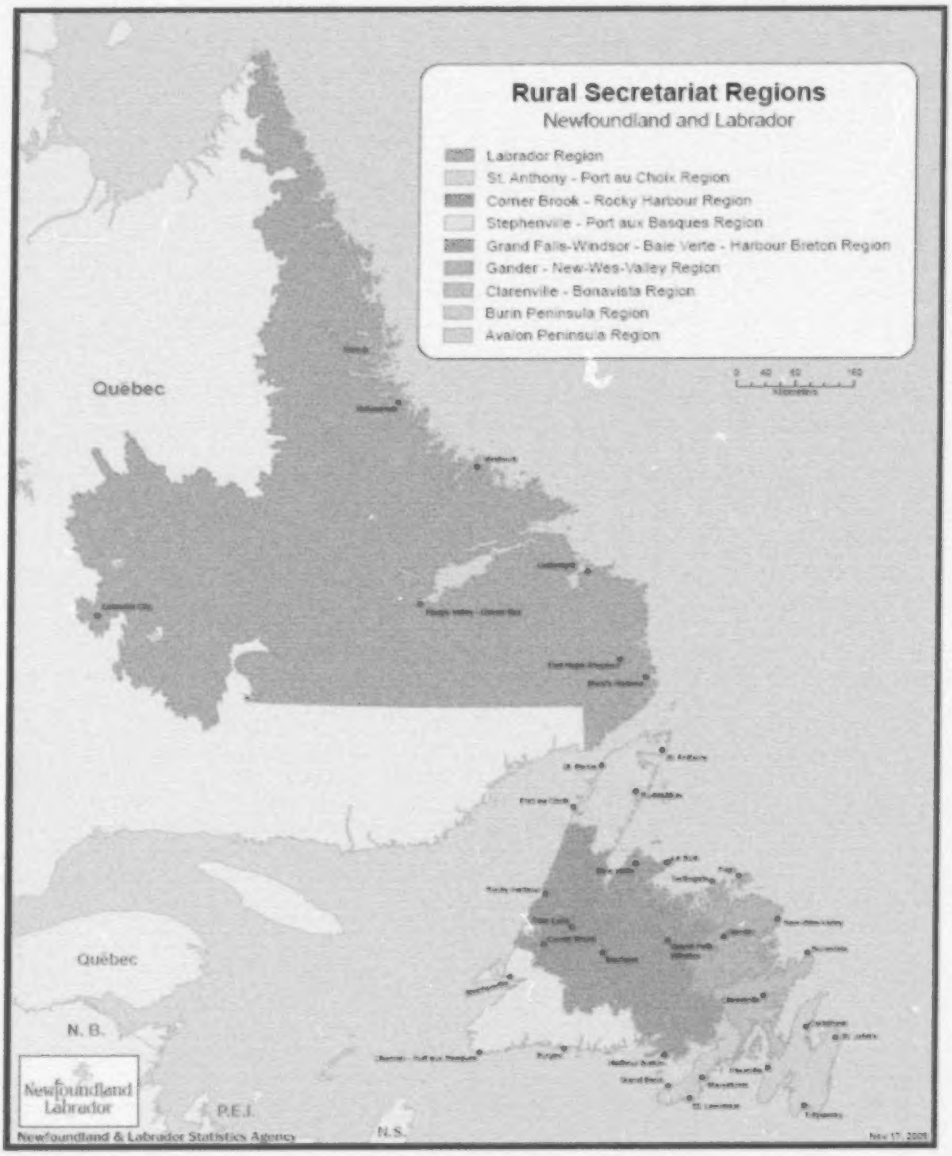
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	Department Original Budget 2013-14	Amended 2013-14	Actual 2013-14
Salaries	117,800	258,100	246,113
Employee Benefits	1,200	1,200	54
Travel & Communication	8,000	8,000	2,559
Supplies	2,200	2,200	1,531
Professional Services	30,000	30,000	0
Purchased Services	15,000	15,000	1,910
Property, Furnishings & Equipment	600	600	229
Grants	195,000	195,000	184,430
Total Expenditure	369,800	510,100	436,826

Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP)	Department Original Budget 2013-14	Amended 2013-14	Actual 2013-14
Salaries	369,700	355,300	313,300
Employee Benefits	2,100	2,100	0
Travel & Communication	12,000	12,000	4,158
Supplies	5,200	5,200	4,405
Professional Services	0	0	0
Purchased Services	4,500	4,500	348
Property, Furnishings & Equipment	1,500	1,500	932
Total Expenditure	395,000	380,600	323,143

Youth Engagement/GMO	Department Original Budget 2013-14	Amended 2013-14	Actual 2013-14
Salaries	430,800	422,100	389,193
Employee Benefits	3,700	3,700	377
Travel & Communication	86,100	86,100	71,546
Supplies	8,500	8,500	6,939
Professional Services	12,000	2,200	0
Purchased Services	25,700	25,700	15,819
Property, Furnishings & Equipment	1,400	11,200	11,078
Grants	3,307,200	3,307,200	3,305,388
Total Expenditure	3,875,400	3,866,700	3,800,340

Minister's Office	Department Original Budget 2013-14	Amended 2013-14	Actual 2013-14
Salaries	71,700	71,700	36,994
Employee Benefits	2,000	2,000	–
Travel & Communication	30,000	29,000	5,680
Supplies	–	1,000	714
Total Expenditure	103,700	103,700	43,388

Appendix A: Rural Secretariat Regions



Appendix B: Newfoundland & Labrador Youth Advisory Committee

The Youth Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established in June 2001 to serve as a forum for the youth of the province to voice their views and concerns and increase youth involvement in the Provincial Government's decision-making process.

Responsibility for the Committee, which is a Category 3 entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, was transferred from the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills to the Minster responsible for the Office of Public Engagement upon the creation of the OPE.

A key role for the Committee was to advise Provincial Government departments responsible for youth-related programs and policies. A model for youth engagement is presently under consideration to provide ways to reach youth through various means including social media.

For this reason, the Committee did not meet in 2013-14 and no annual report on its activities was prepared.

Newfoundland
Labrador

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